

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1043

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0 2 4 1

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: PINS UR

SUBJ: MARAMZIN TRAIL IN LENINGRAD: COOPERATION; REPENTANCE; AND  
A SUSPENDED SENTENCE

USIA FOR IEE

REF: LENINGRAD 0210

1. SUMMARY: LENINGRAD PRESS OF FEB 21-22 REPORTS THAT WRITER VLADIMIR R. MARAMZIN, UNDER ARREST SINCE JULY, HAS BEEN TRIED ON CHARGES OF ENGAGING IN ANTI-SOVIET AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA AND DEFAMING THE SOVIET STATE. MARAMZIN ADMITTED TO HAVING SENT WRITINGS OUT OF THE USSR, PLEADED THAT HE HAD BEEN MADE THE UNWITTING DUPE OF UNFRIENDLY FORCES ABROAD, RECEIVED A SUSPENDED 5-YEAR SENTENCE, AND WAS RELEASED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A LONG AND FAR-FROM-UNSYMPATHETIC ARTICLE ENTITLED "AS SIGHT BEGINS TO RETURN" (KOGDA NASTUPAET PROZRENIE), LENPRAVDA OF FEB 21 ANNOUNCED THE OPENING OF THE TRIAL OF V. R. MARAMZIN, ACCUSED OF VIOLATING PART 1, ARTICLE 70 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE OF THE RSFSR FOR HAVING ENGAGED IN ANTI-SOVIET AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA, PROPAGATING  
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ANTI-SOVIET LITERATURE PUBLISHED ABROAD, AND DEFAMING

THE SOVIET STATE. MARAMZIN WAS DESCRIBED AS HAVING HAD HIS HEAD TURNED BY SOME SMALL LITERARY SUCCESS, AS HAVING BECOME "INTOXICATED" FOR FOREIGN ANTI-SOVIET LITERATURE, AS HAVING RECOMMENDED IT TO FRIENDS IN LENINGRAD AND MOSCOW; HAVING BEGUN, UNDER ITS INFLUENCE, TO WRITE SAME, AND HAVING BEEN MADE USE OF BY "THE VOICE," "LIBERTY" AND OTHER UNNAMED FOREIGN AGENCIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO "SMEAR" THE SOVIET PROGRAM OF PEACE AND ITS COURSE "TOWARDS THE STRENGTHENING AND WIDENING OF INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS."

3. A SEVERAL-PARAGRAPH EXTRACT FROM A STATEMENT MADE BY THE DEFENDANT TO THE COURT WAS PUBLISHED IN WHICH MARAMZIN STATES THAT HE WAS THE UNWITTING VICTIM OF FORCES ABROAD (HE NAMES A FRENCHWOMAN, KATRIN DORE, IDENTIFIED BY LENPRAVDA AS A TROTSKYITE, AND AN OTHER-WISE-UNIDENTIFIED FRIEND OF HERS, KARIN VAAST, BOTH OF WHOM VISITED HIM IN LENINGRAD AS LIKELY REPRESENTATIVES OF THOSE FORCES). THEY WISHED "TO SEE HIM ARRESTED FOR THEIR OWN GAIN," I.E., TO MAKE HIM A LITERARY/POLITICAL MARTYR AND FOCAL POINT FOR CRITICISM OF THE SOVIET UNION. HE ADMITTED GIVING SOME OF HIS UNPUBLISHED WORKS TO DORE FOR "SAFE-GUARDING" ABROAD, BUT MAINTAINED THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER THEM IN ANY WAY AS POLITICAL WRITINGS. HE FURTHER STATED THAT, SEEING THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS, HE HOPED THAT WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM WOULD SERVE AS "A LESSON" FOR HIS COUNTRYMEN WHO APPROACH ACQUAINTANCES FROM ABROAD WITH "RUSSIAN HOSPITALITY AND TRUST."

4. IN A SHORTER FEB 22 WRAP-UP ARTICLE ENTITLED, SUCCINCTLY, "REPENTANCE," IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT "MARAMZIN PLEADED GUILTY TO ALL CHARGES, REPENTED OF ALL HIS CRIMES, AND STATED THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO TAKE THE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS ACTIONS." HE IS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS: "THE LAW IS THE LAW, AND HE WHO BREAKS IT IS (YAVLYAETSYA) A CRIMINAL. TODAY, ALONG WITH YOU, I JUDGE MYSELF, NOT ONLY FOR THOSE ACTIONS ENUMERATED IN THE CHARGE, BUT FOR MANY OTHERS NOT COVERED UNDER THE CRIMINAL CODE. I COMPLETELY REPENT

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AND ASK MERCY OF THE COURT..." THE ARTICLE CONTINUES: "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SINCERE REPENTENCE OF V. MARAMZIN AND THE FACT THAT HE ACTIVELY COOPERATED IN AVERTING HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES (AKTIVNO SODEISTVOVAL PREDOTVRASHCHENIYU VREDNYKH POSLEDSTVIY) OF HIS CRIMES, BUT ALSO THAT HE DECISIVELY CONDEMNED THE DIRTY INTRIGUES WHICH CERTAIN CIRCLES IN THE WEST ORGANIZED AROUND HIS NAME...HE IS CONDITIONALLY (USLOVNO) SEN-

TENCED TO FIVE YEARS DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY.  
V MARAMZIN WAS FREED FROM DETENTION IN THE COURTROOM."

5. COMMENT: WHETHER THE CHARGE OF COMPLING THE WORKS OF BRODSKY BRUITED ABOUT IN LENINGRAD AND ABROAD (CF. BRODSKY'S LETTER TO THE NY REVIEW OF BOOKS, JAN 23, 1975) CAME UP AT THE TRIAL IS UNKNOWN. NO FOREIGN PRESS, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, ATTENDED, AND THE POST HAS NOT YET MET WITH A SOVIET WHO DID. IT IS CLEAR THAT MARAMZIN WAS NOT, AT LEAST OFFICIALLY, SO CHARGED. THE CONCENTRATION OF THE CHARGES AND PRESS COVERAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL, I.E., COOPERATION WITH DIRTY, DETENTE-DESTROYING FOREIGNERS, AS OPPOSED TO THE PURELY INTERNAL, I.E., WRITING AND DISTRIBUTING POETRY NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CANONS OF MARXIAN CRITICISM, WAS NOT LOST ON LOCAL UNOFFICIAL POETES (SOME, LONG-TIME BRODSKY ASSOCIATES), WHO TOLD P&C OFFICER WITHIN DAYS OF TRIAL VERDICT THAT PLANS CONTINUE FOR PRESENTING THE WRITERS UNION WITH AN ULTIMATUM CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF SOME OF THEIR POETRY, AFTER THE FASHION AND EXAMPLE OF THE UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS, WITH WHOM THEY ARE INCREASINGLY JOINING FORCES. IF THE TWO TYPES OF OFFENSE ARE DIVISIBLE IN LAW, IN FACT THEY TEND TO GO HAND IN HAND. THE UNUSUAL AND UNEXPECTED SUSPENDED SENTENCE LEADS TO SPECULATION AS TO THE QUALITY AND EXTENT OF THE "ACTIVE COOPERATION" MENTIONED ABOVE, I.E., HOW MAY RUSSIAN, AS OPPOSED TO FOREIGN NAMES HE HAD TO DIVULGE IN ORDER TO GET OFF, AND WHAT THE RESULTS OF THAT WILL BE.  
NEUBERT

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